

27 December 1951

*Original in OC
for answer 4 Jan 52*

MEMORANDUM FOR: Assistant Director, Communications

FROM: Assistant Director, Collection & Dissemination

SUBJECT: Development of a Facsimile Security System

REFERENCE: Your memo, same subject, of 21 December 1951

1. Reference asks for a statement from OGD as to the relative degree of privacy (in terms of hours or days) which will be required in transmission of information via the Intellofax System.

2. Such a statement, if one can be formulated, must be based on the nature of the data transmitted. The following comments may be helpful in this regard.

3. 95% of the data transmitted are lists of titles of reports which bear upon one or another subject and one or another geographic area. The reports themselves may have come from any of the IAC agencies, and they range from UNCLASSIFIED to TOP SECRET, but it is only their titles and occasionally brief summaries of content which are transmitted. If a researcher is working on the Soviet coal industry, the Intellofax System provides him with a list of all documents bearing on the subject, and from this list he decides which of the actual documents will best serve his purpose. Thereafter he gets the actual documents from the Library.

4. In arriving at the decision that these transmissions need be classified no higher than SECRET, we considered the following: (1) That titles of TOP SECRET reports are not in themselves TOP SECRET, (2) that the few summaries of TOP SECRET reports which go into the files are, in fact, more like Tables of Contents than actual summaries of content, and it is likely that they very seldom if ever contain information which of itself would require a TOP SECRET classification, (3) that several weeks elapse between the time when any TOP SECRET report is issued and the time when its title or summary is processed into the files, and (4) that several months usually elapse thereafter before the title or summary are transmitted in response to some analyst's request.

5. As these are not tactical or operational data, but are highly static, it seems doubtful to me that we could formulate a satisfactory statement of relative degree of privacy required.

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